

Rock Painting Policy

A group co-chaired by the Dean of Students and the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee of the Undergraduate Student Government met over the course of the Spring 2002 Semester in order to propose guidelines and develop a policy concerning the painting of campus rocks. The Members of this group included representatives from Residential Life, Residence Hall Association, Campus Activities, Pan-Hellenic Council, and Interfraternity Council. The following policy statement and proposed set of expectations focusing on rock painting will ultimately be expanded to address the needs of student organizations for proper and accessible posting space, as well as regulations for how, when, and where advertising can take place.

Policy Statement: Painting of rocks and other forms of University of Connecticut landscape is prohibited.

The Policy and guidelines that follow are put forth in an effort to address the following needs:

- To foster pride within student organizations
- Keep the campus beautiful by protecting the institutions investment in new and renovated facilities

The tradition of Rock Painting, properly regulated, has a positive impact on campus. It provides an outlet to show school spirit and pride in individual organizations. Therefore, the following list of rocks become the official "paintable" rocks located on University of Connecticut Property:

- Towers Rocks-bottom of the walkway to Towers behind St Thomas Aquinas Church
- Buckley/Shippee Rock-on the south side of the road leading to the Buckley/Shippee parking lot
- South Eagleville Road-Across from the Mansfield Apartments entrance
- Upon completion of the Greek Village Housing Project, the Original Campus Painting Rock, once in the location where the North Garage is presently, will be taken out of storage and placed near the new housing

The painting of rocks on campus is prohibited. The rocks outside of the present fraternity houses may be painted only until such time as the Greek Village is completed, and the fraternities are moved from their current locations.

Rock Painting Guidelines

The guidelines for painting rocks are as follows:

- Groups painting rocks will take care that the area is left in a clean condition. Remove all materials and litter from the site and be sure that paint is properly disposed of. Further, the University will provide a trash receptacle at each site to assist in the clean-up efforts.
- Nearby objects shall not be painted.
- Only water base latex paint is allowed.
- In light of concerns regarding unhealthy competition to get the rocks painted, please observe the following Rock Painting Etiquette:
 - Entire rock must be painted. Due to the amount of time and planning it takes to paint, it is expected that new painting will completely cover the rock. Tagging letters, names, or symbols over other groups' paintings is not appropriate.
 - Other groups will not interfere with those painting rocks. People have the right to paint rocks without being harassed or demeaned.
 - **Once painted and dry**, it will be recognized that other groups may paint over the work and guarding the rock is inappropriate.
 - There will be no guarding of any rock.
 - All rock painting will be done sober. No drinking is permitted while painting rocks.
 - Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated at the rock sites. This includes loud music.

- Groups will not use rock painting as a means for earning respect from members of their organization. Painting the rocks should be a fun, voluntary activity.

Guidelines for implementation

Enforcement of the policy and rock painting guidelines will be coordinated by a group of students representing various student organizations as well as by local and University law enforcement personnel. Violations of the policy and guidelines may result in judicial action toward individuals and/or groups.

A plaque will be installed near each of the four designated rocks indicating:

- -“This rock is one of four ‘Spirit Rocks’ on the University of Connecticut Campus. Painting these rocks has become a well-established and valued tradition for student organizations. The rocks are used to promote pride and excitement within student groups, as well as providing an opportunity for students to show their spirit to the University Community. For more information on the University of Connecticut ‘Spirit Rocks’ contact the *Center for Student Involvement* in the Student Union or the *Dean of Students Office* in the Wilbur Cross Building.”